

19 August 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

The following took place on Saturday, 17 August:

25X1A9a The first I heard of the automobile accident described in the
25X1A9a attached newspaper account was between ten and eleven o'clock, Saturday
morning, when I got a telephone call at home from CIA night security
officer. Before telling me exactly what had happened in the accident,
they explained that [REDACTED] whose wife had been killed in the
accident, was a CIA employee. I did not realize until later on in the
day that [REDACTED] himself was in no way involved in the crash. If
I had realized this, I could have told the NSO not to get too excited
about getting CIA into print.

The Security Office people had called Colonel Grogan as soon as
they heard of the accident and, of course, found no one at home. They
claimed they had not been informed that Colonel Grogan was on leave,
nor did they have a record of any one else to call in case they could
not get him. This evidently gave the Security people the impression
that it was up to them or to [REDACTED] office (Communications) to
handle any problems with the press. 25X1A9a

25X1A9a The NSO (I did not get the name of the individual on this particu-
lar call) said that the STAR had interviewed [REDACTED] right after the 25X1A9a
accident. [REDACTED] had refused to say any more than that he worked for
the U. S. Government. I told the NSO that if there were more press
inquiries, I thought [REDACTED] had better name the agency he worked for 25X1A9a
rather than be mysterious unless there was some special reason why
25X1A9a [REDACTED] could not divulge his connection. So far as I could discover,
there was no such reason.

25X1A9a I read the WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS as soon as it came and found no
mention of [REDACTED] or CIA whatsoever. What seemed to me to be the
reason was fairly obvious--that [REDACTED] had not been in the accident. 25X1A9a
To have brought up the matter of the victim's husband and his particular
form of employment would have seemed to be completely irrelevant. 25X1A9a

25X1A9a At 7:30, Saturday evening, the night security officer, [REDACTED]
25X1A9a called to say that [REDACTED] boss in the Communications office,
25X1A9a had been with [REDACTED] during the afternoon. During this time reporters had
come to see [REDACTED] saying that they were unsatisfied with [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
statement that he worked for the U. S. Government. [REDACTED] seemed 25X1A9a
confused as to just what then went on, but I should gather that [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
25X1A9a stuck to [REDACTED] original statement about [REDACTED] employment in the 25X1A9a
U. S. Government.

On Monday morning, the 19th, I searched the local newspapers to see if any of them had mentioned [REDACTED] or the Agency and found no sign that they had done so. 25X1A9a

25X1A9a I got the impression from both night security officers I talked to, and particularly [REDACTED] that they believe the Agency operates under a "policy" of keeping any mention of its name out of the press whenever possible. They also seemed to think that Colonel Grogan is the agent for carrying out this "policy" and that he can keep undesirable items out of the press whenever he chooses to do so. I got the impression that in his absence, they were attempting to take his place in keeping this item out of the news.

25X1A9a

I told [REDACTED] that it was unfortunate they hadn't got the word about Colonel Grogan's absence, and hoped that during the rest of the week if anything at all came up involving the press, they would let me know before they did anything about it.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]
Acting Assistant to the Director